114 back to France a short but useful vocabulary of Vejoz, a dialect of the Matacos living near the river Zeta or Oran, but this [560] document remained in obscurity among that author's papers in the National Library of Paris until it was found by Mr. Luciano Adam, who was kind enough to send it to me at Pilciao.

114 ●126 Without knowing anything about the language of the Mataco Indians, completely free from prejudice regarding both the Indians and their language, and intent upon finding out what he could at first hand, Mr. Pelleschi traveled into the Chaco in the manner which he so picturesquelly describes, capping his work with a linguistic treatise in which he re-discovered (may I be allowed the expression) the language of the Uicquii, whom we call Matacos and Mataguayos. The author cuts himself free from all preconceived notions as to grammatical rules of the "sum, es, fuit," type and writes down what he hears, not once, but a thousand times, until he discovers the part of speech to which, according to our way of thinking, the word he was treating corresponded, together with its other accidental characteristics. In the very same order in which he came upon them he sets them down in his travel notebook, in such a way that Mr. Pelleschi allows us to take part in his discoveries and we can delight with him in each new find.

000 Unfortunately for us the book was written in Italian. Doctor José Gutiérrez, friend of the author and warmly interested in these matters, had died, and there was therefore lacking one who would take an active interest in the book, which was, nevertheless, a revelation regarding the study of Argentine languages. Thus it was that the book remained of interest only to bibliophiles, among whom was General Mitre, and it is to him that I owe my first introduction to this meritorious and extremely interesting work.

After reading the book I resolved to make the author's acquaintance, since it dawned on me, in half an hour's perusal, that information of this type is not set down without copious notes, and I realized that there was an important drawback to the work, which was the lack of a vocabulary which might serve as background and complement to the Grammatical Essay covering the last few chapters.

It was not hard to find a mutual friend, and in 1889 there began a relationship which has yielded me many hours of real pleasure and satisfaction.

●126 One by one the words have been checked, the missing twenty five percent has been augmented, the Indians from whom different words and phrases were gathered have been designated with a distinguishing initial, and the unorganized notes on the Otto Mesi [Eight Months] have been translated somewhat more artfully, though under the author's guidance. This was really necessary for matters of reference.

I can say that both he and I have worked with real joy, and now that we are parting after finishing the work, it seems to me that I experience again the feeling which overcame me when I said goodbye to my University companions in the happy years which [563] I spent at Cambridge. I cannot dedicate this work to Pelleschi, nor he to me; but I am sure that he will not be opposed to our dedicating it to the unfortunate Larsen, pioneer in these matters, and the first to make Pelleschi's work known in this country.

Samuel A. Lafone Quevedo.

Buenos Aires, November 3, 1896